

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of making a nonwoven web comprising:
 - a) providing a source of fibers;
 - b) subjecting the fibers to an electrostatic charge;
 - c) deflecting the fibers with a non-contacting deflecting device, wherein said non-contact deflecting device comprises an air jet deflector providing discrete jets of air at a downward angle with respect to a horizontal plane and a sideways angle with respect to a machine direction (MD) of the nonwoven web; and
 - d) collecting the fibers on a moving forming surface to form the nonwoven web.
2. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the fibers are substantially continuous fibers provided by melt spinning.
3. (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein the fibers are subjected to pneumatic drawing forces prior to being subjected to the electrostatic charge.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the air jet deflector provides perturbed jets of air.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the electrostatic charge is provided using a charged pin array.
7. (Original) The method of Claim 6 wherein the air jet deflector is a target electrode for the charged pin array.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the air jets are angled with respect to the machine direction at an angle of about 15 degrees to about 60 degrees.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the air jets are angled downward with respect to the horizontal plane at an angle up to about 60 degrees.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for forming a fibrous nonwoven web comprising:

- a) a source of fibers;
- b) a device for applying an electrostatic charge to the fibers;
- c) a non-contacting fiber deflecting device adapted to affect the fibers while the fibers are under the influence of the applied electrostatic charge, wherein said non-contact deflecting device comprises an air jet deflector for providing discrete jets of air at a downward angle with respect to a horizontal plane and a sideways angle with respect to a machine direction (MD) of the nonwoven web; and
- d) a forming surface for collecting the fibers as a fibrous nonwoven web.

15. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 14 wherein the source of fibers is a melt spinning device for producing continuous fibers and wherein the device for applying the electrostatic charge is a charged pin array, and the apparatus further including a fiber drawing unit applying pneumatic drawing forces to the continuous fibers.

16. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 15 wherein the device for applying the electrostatic charge to the fibers is located to apply the electrostatic charge before the fibers enter the fiber drawing unit.

17. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 15 wherein the device for applying the electrostatic charge to the fibers is located to apply the electrostatic charge to the fibers while the fibers are in the fiber drawing unit.

18. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 15 wherein the device for applying the electrostatic charge to the fibers is located to apply the electrostatic charge to the fibers after the fibers exit the fiber drawing unit and before the fibers are collected on the forming surface.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 17 wherein the air jet deflector is located on the opposite side of the fibers from the device for applying the electrostatic charge, and wherein the air jet deflector is a target electrode.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 18 wherein the air jet deflector is located on the opposite side of the fibers from the device for applying the electrostatic charge, and wherein the air jet deflector is a target electrode.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 18 further comprising a second air jet deflector located on the opposite side of the fibers from the first air jet deflector.

26. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 25 wherein the charged pin array is located upon one non-contacting deflection device.